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ON LETTER-WRITING.

WE feel sure that our young readers will be glad of some hints on the gentle art of letter-writing. For the University Examinations it is customary to demand from candidates a letter on some given subject, and we hope that a careful study of this article may be of use in helping them to satisfy their examiners in this respect. Having recently had a great deal to do with the composition papers of nearly 10,000 Matriculation candidates we venture to think that the publication—purely anonymous of course—of a few specimens of the letters sent in and our comments thereon may prove interesting and instructive.

The question set was,—" Write a letter, as if to a brother, telling him when your examination will be over, how you expect to acquit yourself in it, and how you think of spending the Christmas holidays."

Here are three specimens of *bona fide* answers—The headings and signatures are purely imaginary ; all else is the genuine work of the examinees.

I.

Zangla,

4-12-05.

DEAR BROTHER,

I reached this place on the 3rd instant. I have not answered the paper on English Grammar so satisfactorily as I use to answer on class examination. But in the paper on Paraphrase and Composition I have answered more satisfactorily. So I think that I may pass in English. With regard to other papers I think that they will be more difficult than the papers of the last year. Yet I think that I may pass in the examination. My examination will be over on Friday the 8th instant. I want to stay here for two more days. As I want to spend this vacation partly by travel and partly by study. I then think of going to Kumbakonam and staying there for 10 or 12 days so that I think of coming to my village on the 22nd or 23rd instant. I then want to read extra books and novels.

I am,
Yours most obediently.
GOPINATH.

II.

Gummudupandi,

4-12-05.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

My examination will be over by the coming Friday evening. As I have answered satisfactorily in all the papers I expect to have a pass in the examination. I think of spending the Christmas holidays in reading many novels, improving Mathematics and improving my health by taking exercises and walks.

I am,
Yours affectionately,
GANESH.

III.

Kasi,

4-12-05.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

My examination has commenced to-day and it will be over on Friday the 8th instant. I have made satisfactory preparations for

the examination and so far as it lies in human power. I have got every hope of getting success. You know I am a little deficient in History. This year I have made a thorough and critical study of Histories and if I find the History papers moderate, I am sure of success. As soon as the examination is over I go to our father at Madras and would like to spend a fortnight with him there. I am extremely sorry to inform you that I may not be able to enjoy the pleasure of your company during the ensuing vacation. I have an idea of taking a tour around the Southern parts of our Presidency and I expressed my opinion in a letter to our father on the 29th of November last. Yesterday he writes to me he has sanctioned me a sum of Rs. 50, for my tour-expenses and I am extremely glad to see the letter. So you will kindly excuse me for my inability to go over there. Pay my kind regards to our uncle and aunt.

I remain,
My dear Brother,
Yours affectionately,
VISVANATH

No. I. This letter is about the right length but contains many glaring errors, which we shall proceed to point out. It begins correctly and ends wrongly. In ending a letter to a brother words of affection should be used, such as, 'I am your affectionate,' or 'Very affectionate Brother'—or some other phrase showing love and affection. "*Yours most obediently*" is an absurd ending.

"*As I use to answer on class examination.*" There are two or three bad mistakes here. Say 'as I used to answer in the class examinations.'

"*To other papers.*"—Say 'to the other papers.'

"*Of the last year.*"—Omit *the*. No one can ever write English idiomatically until the correct use of the definite article has been thoroughly mastered.

The writer of the letter has not adhered in his answer to the order of the points asked in the question. After saying how he is doing in the examination he states that the examination will close on Friday 8th. See the question.

"*I want to stay here, &c.*"—This use of the word "want" for "propose" or "intend" is not accurate. The phrase is grammatically correct, but comes in somewhat abruptly and is not idiomatic.

"*Partly by travel and partly by study.*" Say "partly in" in both cases. 'Partly *by*' is wrong. If one is describing modes of travelling it is correct to say "Partly by," as 'I travelled partly *by* rail, partly *by* boat to British Cochin.'

"*So that I think of coming.*" Do not repeat the word "think" so often. The word 'so' is awkwardly used. The sentence may be concluded 'and I shall probably come to my village' etc.

No. II. This letter begins and ends correctly. It is too brief.

"*I expect to have a pass in the examination.*" Unidiomatic—say 'to pass the examination.'

"*I think of spending.*"—Better, 'I propose spending,' or 'it is my intention to spend.'

"*Improving mathematics.*" —'The writer cannot mean what he says.' No doubt he means, 'improving *myself in* mathematics.'

"*And improving my health by taking exercises and walks.*" Say, 'and, by taking exercise (*not* "exercises") and walks, I hope to improve my bodily health.'

No. III.—Of the three letters this is the best. It errs in being somewhat too long.

"*And so far as it lies in human power.*" The meaning of this is not clear. It would be better to omit these words altogether, and to re-write the next sentence thus 'and I have every hope of being successful.'

"*Have got....of getting*" is clumsy and unidiomatic.

"*Of Histories.*" Say *of the histories,*—meaning the English and Indian Histories set for the examination.

"*I go to our father*" say 'I shall go', or "I intend to go."

"*A tour around.*" Say 'round' not 'around.'

"*I expressed my opinion.*" This expression is inaccurate. What the writer means is that he told his father of his wish to go on a tour. So he should have written, 'I told my father of this idea of mine in a letter written on', etc.

"*He has sanctioned me a sum*"—Omit 'me.' !

'*I am extremely glad to see the letter.* Say, 'I was extremely glad to receive his letter.'

"*To go over there.*"—This use of 'there' is unidiomatic, but is very common in letters written by school boys in this country. Say, 'to come to our village,' or, 'to our town,' etc.

None of the three letters are very bad, but after our criticisms it will be seen that the faults of idiom in them are numerous. The grammar is fairly good and the spelling irreproachable.

We have found in the course of nearly 40 years' experience that nothing is so hard as to get candidates to pay close attention to the question and to answer *to the point.*

A great many, in writing to a supposed brother, used the most ridiculous forms in beginning their letters. The only proper form is—My Dear (*ordinary name used by the family*) and the conclusion should be, 'I am' or 'Believe me, your affectionate or ' your very affectionate—' not *Your Dear*—brother. To end up with, "I am, my dear brother, yours affectionately...." is quite correct But to end up with "I am, your dear brother...." is quite wrong.

But it is possible to be too brief in writing a friendly letter though that is not the general fault to be found with the countless compositions of this class by Hindus that have passed through our hands.

In writing to officials or to some person in authority asking for an appointment it is advisable, while being perfectly respectful in your address, to avoid a servile form of writing. Let your letter be a manly straightforward one. The usual way of beginning such letters is "Respected Sir." There is not much to be said against this, but the word 'respected' might just as well be omitted. No European in writing to seek employment would begin his letter 'Respected Sir'.

The body of a letter of this kind should merely state that (1) he hears there is a vacancy on such and such pay (2) he wishes to be considered an applicant for the post (3) he is the son of—whose appointment is—(4) his personal qualifications are such and such (5) if he is successful in his application he will try to give every satisfaction by close attention to his duties.

Then comes the ending. Do *not* write "Throwing myself on your honor's feet"—or "Casting myself on your well-known benevolence," or any nonsense of this kind, but close simply with the words.

I am, yours respectfully,
or, I am, your obedient servant,
P. Ramaswami (or whatever your name may be.)

Many letters begin "Respected Sir," and end "I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant." This is wrong. Two styles of letters are here mixed up. The way to begin and end a purely official letter is :—

Begin—Sir, I have the honour (here follows the matter you have to write about).

End—I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant.

Give your official designation after your name.

In writing to friends you may begin 'Dear'—or 'My dear'—and end 'Yours truly,' or 'very truly,' or 'sincerely,' or 'very sincerely,' according to the terms of intimacy you are on, with the person to whom you are writing.

To write to a Firm of Merchants or to any Firm—'My dear Gentlemen,' is quite wrong Say simply 'Sirs' or 'Gentlemen,' and end 'Yours faithfully'—One quite wrong but very common ending used by inexperienced writers is—'Yours affectionate brother' or 'yours dear friend' or 'yours obedient servant.'

'Yours' may be used correctly only with an adverb; for example. 'Yours affectionately,' 'yours obediently,' or 'yours faithfully,' which are correct forms.

We will now give a few specimen letters written in the way that is conventionally correct.

To a Firm of Book-sellers and Publishers.

Dear Sirs, or simply, Sirs.

I shall feel obliged, if you will let me know, by return of post if possible, whether you have a copy of Schmidt's Shakespeare Lexicon in stock, and the price of it.

Yours faithfully.

To a Firm of Merchants.

GENTLEMEN,

I am told that you have a vacancy for a clerk on Rs. 60 per mensem. I am at present in the employ of Messrs——, (whose permission I have to address you,) on Rs. 40 mensem. They have kindly promised me, if applied to by you, to give me their good word.

Enclosing copies of testimonials from my present employers, and from the Head-master of the School where I was educated,

I beg to subscribe myself,
Your obedient servant,———

Here enter your address, or give it at the top of your letter. The latter is the more usual plan among Europeans. The failure to give your address carefully may lose you a post, and any carelessness about dates, etc., will be noted against you.

Remember also that the best of all introductions is a good clear style of handwriting.

One form of letter that is frequently required and often very badly written is an application to a superior for leave of absence. Here are two sensible forms for such a letter, one to an official, the other to a non-official.

Date,............

To

The Superintendent of Police.

SIR,

I have the honour to request that I may be granted a week's leave at the earliest possible date, in order to visit my father who is in a very bad state of health. The last leave I had was two years ago, from——to——,on urgent private affairs.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant

———

To

MESSRS.

1st Line Beach, GEORGETOWN.

GENTLEMEN,

I regret that I find it necessary to ask for a week's leave to visit my old father who is in a very bad state of health. I entered your employ about 2 years ago, and have not been absent from my work during that time for more than 4 days. Trusting you will kindly grant my request.

I am,
Your obedient servant,

....
Correspondence Clerk.

Of course there are countless occasions on which letters and notes have to be written. When you are replying to a letter or a note, be careful to reply *to the point* and to answer the various questions put by your correspondent as succinctly as possible. Here is a possible answer to a friend who wants you to go for a trip into the country with him.

DEAR—

I am sorry I cannot possibly get away on the dates you mention. There is a great pressure of work in our office just now, and I do not like to ask for any leave to go on a pleasure trip. Better luck next time, let us hope.

Yours sincerely,

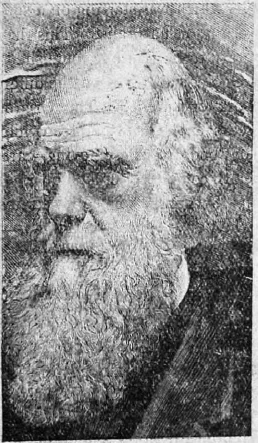
....

No V.

CHARLES DARWIN.

Lives of great men all remind us,
We can make our lives sublime,
And departing, leave behind us
Footprints in the sands of time.

Charles Robert Darwin was born at Shrewsbury in Shropshire, a town standing on the river Severn He was a great naturalist and biologist, and in all his studies and writings shows us that his efforts were all directed to throwing light on the development of the organic world,—that is the structure of animals and plants and their development: the origin and growth of all creatures animate or inanimate. Charles Darwin's grandfather on his father's side was a very learned man, Erasmus Darwin, both a scientist and a poet. He was a doctor, working hard among the poorer classes, who were unable to pay him, and among whom he did much to diminish the curse of drunkenness.



His greatest, or rather most important scientific work was Zoönomia, and on his grandson descended his mantle, for Charles Darwin's greatest works were the "Origin of Species by means of natural selection," and the "Descent of Man."—Treatises on generation, that is birth, or development.

On his mother's side he was the grandson of Josiah Wedgwood, one of the most distinguished manufacturers of English pottery, distinguished from other pottery as 'Wedgwood ware.' Thus on

both sides Charles Darwin inherited brain power, for Josiah Wedgwood was a skilful and learned man and a great friend of Dr. Erasmus Darwin.

The boy's studies were carried on first at Shrewsbury, then at Edinborough, and lastly at Cambridge. When, as a young man, he was sent there, it was with the idea that he should become a clergyman, but he eventually turned all his thoughts and attention to scientific studies.

He travelled on the ship Beagle, which was starting on a surveying expedition, taking up the position of naturalist. This he did against his parents' wish. On his return to England he published the Journal of a Naturalist, as well as Geological works on the different places they visited. The great work of his life, "The Origin of Species," was published many years later, in 1859. Meanwhile he had married his cousin Emma Wedgwood, to whose loving care he many times owed his life, for his health completely broke down. "The Descent of Man," was published in 1871, and then followed many works, all having the same trend, whether of Rocks—or Plants,—the law of evolution.

Charles Darwin lived a long life—working hard and continuously in spite of ill health, and constant break-downs. He died in 1882 and was buried in Westminster Abbey. In manner he was most kind, very courteous, and generous to his opponents. It is worthy of note that Darwin was obliged to work during very few hours each day, but during those hours he did an immense amount owing to his abnormal power of concentration. For nearly forty years, he never had one day of what we call good health, so that all his work must have been done while struggling against incessant weariness and even pain.

Charles Darwin was a great man, and has left to the scientific world stores of wealth. There may be much that shocks religious thought in his works, but all must own the greatness of the man and honour him for his scientific research.

All the great Societies of the civilised world did him honour as well as the Universities of his own country.

Professor Wallace claims for Darwin that " he is the Newton of Natural History. That is—he is to Natural History what Sir Isaac Newton is to Natural Philosophy. He not only threw light on the development of organic matter, but established a firm foundation for the future study of nature."—M.

Denmark.

This month when thoughts have been turned to this peninsula, by the death of its king, so closely connected with our own Royal family, it may be interesting to our readers to learn a little about the country and the people. Denmark is one of those countries, once a great power in Europe, but now limited, and consisting of Denmark, Jutland, and a group of small islands in the Baltic Sea. with a few colonial possessions. We know from history that the early Danes were great seamen, a piratical race, remarkable for their well-planned sea robberies, and for their sudden and successful descents on the coasts of England, and Scotland, and for their conquest of Normandy. They were practised seamen, and we must greatly admire their navigation, when we remember the breadth of sea they crossed, without the help of the compass.

Canute the Great in one of the expeditions against England, managed to conquer so large a portion, that he became King of England in 1018, but the Danes only held the land until 1042.

In the matter of education Denmark stands very high. It is thought that many of the great advantages in Danish education rest on the fact that all schools, grammar or others, are dependent on the University of Copenhagen. Education is compulsory, and nearly all the lower classes can read and write. There is much good literature in Danish, and one of the greatest of fairy tale writers, Hans Christian Andersen, was a Dane. His stories are known and loved all the world over, by both young and old. In the fine arts, too, the Danes hold their own. Petersburg is compared in genius to Turner in England, and the more modern name of Carl Bloch is well known. The name of Thorwaldsen, the great sculptor, is venerated by all, and has raised the name of Denmark in connection with this art to a high pitch. The Danes as a nation are fond of music, and there have been

some great composers among them,—Hartmann and Gade of modern times.

The Danes are yellow haired, fair, and blue eyed Teutons, and in character gay, taking more after the French in habits and customs than after their other ancestors.—M.

The Two Westminster Pupils.

(*Translated from the French by M. K. B.*)

"A good action done in one's life is something which, sooner or later, brings its own reward."

This proverb of an Arab poet always comes true. We rarely indeed find, that any kindness done to others does not some day bring its own reward: either by giving us happiness or adding to our good reputation. When people say that unselfish men are not the happiest in this world, they are deceived, and real happiness is confounded with what is pretence: to tell the real truth, we can only say that they are neither the richest, nor the most powerful.

Who has not at least once in his life, derived advantage from some honourable act, which he has believed to have been quite forgotten.

What good man is there who has not met, at least once, in the world a stranger who has become a friend through his reputation? And is this nothing then? this brotherhood which is felt by all honest minds, and which guarantees you, like good deeds, the friendship, of those who are capable of understanding you and of sympathising with you.

Then who can say what chapter of accidents the future may have in store for us and what fruit a good act will bring us in the future? We should not be kind only with the idea of gaining some reward for that would be like practising usury with one's heart; but without thinking of payment for any good thing done, we may hope to find in them the kindness which they have found in us and, when opportunity comes, we shall reap a little gratitude where we have sown so many benefits.

The following story, which is in the History of England, gives us a touching example of this truth.

It happened during the civil wars between the Parliament and the king. The two parties had taken up arms against each other and were fighting desperately. The army of King Charles had however been defeated several times and those of his followers who had been taken prisoners with arms in their hands were led before judges, placed in each town by Cromwell, to be condemned as rebels.

Sir Patrick of Newcastle was one of these judges. He was a stern man, who represented the Republic, firm, but dispassionate, and for whom Cromwell felt great esteem and respect. His bad health had prevented him from serving in the army. So he had set himself to serve the political cause, on the side which his judgment had led him to adopt, and he was spoken of as one of the most active, and skilful of magistrates, but at the same time the most strictly just in the country.

One evening when Sir Patrick had invited some friends, with whom he was supping gaily in the midst of his family, some soldiers entered with a Royalist soldier, whom they had just surprised and taken prisoner. He was an officer, who, after the defeat of king Charles' army, had tried to reach the coast again, so as to embark for France. Sir Patrick ordered his hands to be unbound. Then he had another table brought, and placed near the fire-place.

" To-day is my birthday, " said he, " I wish to finish happily the feast I have begun. Serve refreshments to the Cavalier (Royalist) and to those who brought him hither. For the present I am only his host: in an hour I shall become his judge.

The soldiers thanked him, and seated themselves at the table close to their prisoner, who seemed to have courageously resigned himself, and began his supper with them with a good appetite.

Sir Patrick had returned to his place at the feast with his friends, and resumed the conversation which had been interrupted by the entrance of the soldiers.

" Now as I was telling you," he went on, " at fifteen years of age I was so puny and sickly, that every body despised me for my weakness, and took advantage of it in order to make me suffer more.

I had first to bear the ill-treatment of my step-mother. I soon after had to bear the unkindness of my school friends. Courage in a

child only comes from his feeling of strength; my weakness made me a coward. Far from hardening me so that I might bear unkindness, the brutalities to which I was exposed, made me only the more sensible to pain, and more fearful of it. I lived in a state of continual fright, and I dreaded above all the master's cane. Twice I had suffered a cruel beating, and the recollection was so terrible to me, that the thought alone of again being exposed to it made me tremble all over.

As I have told you already. I attended the classes at Westminster school. The two classes of this College were divided by a mere curtain, which we were expressly forbidden to touch.

One summer day, I was overcome by sleep in the midst of at lesson which a Professor was giving on Aristotle. A movement in the class startled me out of sleep, and having nearly fallen, I caught hold of the curtain, which was torn, and a large hole made, through which we could see into the next class room.

The two Professors turned round on hearing the noise, and perceived at once the havoc which had been made.

They might have accused, as well as me, the scholar in the second class who was on the other side of the curtain, but my confusion betrayed me, and the Professor in a rage ordered that I should receive twelve cuts of the cane.

I rose, trembling like a drunken man. I tried to speak to ask for pardon, but fear had frozen my tongue; my knees, were sinking beneath me and a cold perspiration made all my hair quite wet. At last getting near the Professor I fell on my knees.

The terrible cane was already raised to strike, when I heard some one say.

"Do not strike, I am the guilty one." It was the scholar from the other side of the curtain who had just spoken.

He was called into our class, and received twelve cuts of the cane. My first impulse had been to stop this unjust punishment, by proclaiming myself guilty, but strength failed me, and after the first blow had been given, I was ashamed to speak.

After having suffered his punishment, the scholar passed near me, with bleeding hands, and said in an undertone, with a smile which I shall never forget to the end of my life.

"Don't lay hold of the curtain again young one, for the stick hurts."

I fell on my knees sobbing, and they were obliged to send me out.

After that day, I detested my weakness and cowardice, and did all I could to cure myself, I hope that I have at last succeeded in so doing.

" And you no longer know this generous comrade", asked one of the guests. " You have never seen him again ? "

" Never, unhappily. He was not in my class and I left West-minster a short time after. Ah! God is my witness," added Sir Patrick with tears in his eyes, "that I have often prayed that I might see again the boy who suffered so much for me, and that I would give several years of my life to be able to touch glasses once here with him."

At that moment, a glass was held forward to Sir Patrick who raised his eyes in astonishment : it was the royalist prisoner who smilingly offered him the toast.

" In memory of the torn curtain at Westminster," Sir Patrick, said the officer, " but upon my word, your memory has failed you : it was not twelve blows that I received, but double as many, for having exposed you to punishment through not declaring my fault at once."

" That is true, I remember now," cried the Judge, and your worthy Professor gave you if I am not mistaken, on that occasion, as task a Latin speech on voluntary sin.

" I remember, I remember," repeated Sir Patrick, " but can it really be you ? " " Yes," he said, after having looked at him, " I recognise these features ; it is he, it is he : but in what a place, and in what a uniform ! "

"That of my King, Sir Patrick ! a noble man, and a Scotchman. I have done what I was taught was my duty. I followed my father in King Charles' army. My father died, and I am going to share the same fate. It is right ; I ask but one thing. God save the king."

After saying this the officer, returned to the soldiers, and quietly went on eating.

But Sir Patrick, was quiet and preoccupied. That very evening, after having given all necessary orders to ensure the good treatment of the prisoner, he went away, without saying where he was going, and was absent for three days. On the fourth day, he came back, and ordered the royalist prisoner to be brought before him.

" Are they going to try me, " he gravely asked. " It is time to have done with it, were it only out of pity. I am so comfortable in your house, that if I remain much longer, I shall end by regretting the loss of my life.

" Lord Derby", said the Judge, with emotion, "you have been telling me for twenty years, when I recalled your bleeding hands. 'Do not go near the curtain, for the stick gives pain.' Here is your pardon, signed by the Protector, but, in my turn, I now say. " Do not take up arms again against the Parliament, for Cromwell is difficult to persuade." "

At these words, the two men fell into each other's arms and for long after remained most intimate friends, in spite of the difference of their political opinions.

SOAP

What is it ?—Primarily a medicinal agent, and then a cleansing agent. We find mention made of soap many centuries ago, for Pliny the author of the great Natural History, and who died A. D. 79, mentions " soap " in his writings and speaks of two kinds " hard and soft." There are a good many reasons for believing that soap came to the Romans from Germany, as a manufacture, and they would of course have introduced it into England. But it must be remembered that there are many ashes of plants which possess the property of cleansers and purifiers and these were used long ago by the ancients.

Soap may generally be defined as a chemical mixture, made by the union of fats or fatty oils with alkali.—Potash soaps are soft, soda soaps are hard.

How are soaps made, and what materials are used ? The chief raw materials used are: tallow, lard, palm oil, olive oil, cotton seed oil, cocoa-nut oil, fish oil, linseed oil. marrow fat, etc. The alkalis

used, are chiefly solutions of their different hydrates in water, called caustic lyes.

Soap is boiled in huge pans, or iron boilers, or coppers. They used to be heated by an open fire below, now, generally, by steam, injected by perforated pipes which are inside the pan. Of course for different kinds of soap, there is a different process, for instance, when some materials are boiled under high pressure, it is necessary to use closed cylinders.

The oil which is used in soaps, differs according to the country in which it is manufactured, so accordingly the name of the soap varies.

In Germany—tallow is the chief fat used.

In France—olive oil.

In England—tallow and palm oil

The following article on soap found in an old Magazine will be useful reading.

" Soap being an article of universal necessity, it may be useful to learn something about its composition, and it is pleasant to know at the outset that most of the toilet soaps made by English firms, are the very best that are made anywhere. The French come next, but the Germans use cocoa-nut oil largely as a basis of their soaps, and this is found to be not only wasteful, but in many cases, injurious to the skin. Till comparatively lately, soap in this country (England) was always made from the best tallow, melted, purified, and scented, but now transparent soaps are made with glycerine and alcohol.—

The necessity for frequent ablutions of the person and the washing of clothes was, and is, obligatory as a religious duty on the Jews and Mahomedans, and was strictly enforced in the case of both priests and worshippers at the Temple, and this could hardly have been effectual without some sort of soap. We know that scented saponaceous clay was used by the Greeks and Persians. Nevertheless, we incline to the idea that manufacture of olive oil soap was an ancient Jewish art.

The Castile soap with which we were familiar in our early days, was probably an art carried to Spain by the Jews after they were exiled from the Holy Land, and it was primarily an olive oil soap.

Soap made with olive oil must be more wholesome for the skin than that made from any kind of fat, but even this is now being adulterated with cocoa-nut oil, which gives it substance and a nice smooth appearance, but is deleterious to the skin. Simple olive oil soap has been made for many centuries in Palestine from the pure oil extracted from the olive berries and mixed with "alkali," or as the word in Arabic expresses it "the kali." The process of manufacture has been rough and simple, but it has been carried on to a considerable extent and the soap was, and is still, exported to various parts of the Levant. It is not till within the last few years that Europeans have taken up the idea and have produced a soap more suited to our ideas of a toilet soap.

Unfortunately, however, some Europeans have added cocoa-nut oil, which, while improving the appearance of soap, is detrimental to its curative properties. Other olive oil soap is made in some places on the Continent, but this is often made from the refuse of olives after salad oil has been extracted, and it has a rank and disagreeable smell.

It is not easy either to colour or scent olive oil soap, as it is not neutral, like fat, in taking scent or colour. But the smell of the oil if properly treated is very slight and does not remain on the skin, while its curative and emollient properties are so remarkable that medical men very highly recommend it, and those who once use it seldom, if ever, return to the fatted soaps which are by no means always wholesome, and indeed, unless purchased from eminent firms, may be looked upon with considerable suspicion as actually in some cases causing skin disease. Highly coloured and highly scented soaps should be avoided, and even of the best soaps, very little should ever be used for the face, and, where anyone is sensitive to chills, care should be taken to rinse it well off any part of the body so as to prevent any choking of the pores.

A TALK WITH EDISON.

People Eat too much, Sleep too much, and Dont Work enough, says the famous Inventor.

In the opinion of Mr. Edison, the great inventor, people eat too much, sleep too much, and don't work enough. The average man, he thinks, would be much better off and would do very much better work if he would cut down his food and sleep, and labour a little harder. "Men eat and sleep themselves stupid," said Mr. Edison recently to an interviewer. "Sometimes they eat and sleep themselves into the grave. They talk about working too hard. That is absolute nonsense. Generally speaking, a man can't work too hard. It does him good.

"Why, I've worked for five days and nights without sleep, and with very little food and did as good work in those conditions as I ever did in my life.

"You know about Louis Cornaro, the Venetian, who wrote a book on how to live long? He had lived a life of excess until he was nearly forty years old. He was weak, melancholy, and could accomplish nothing. His doctors told him he was on the straight road to death. Then he decided to change his way of living. The principal change he made was to eat less. He grew strong, his mind became brighter and more cheerful, and he lived to be a hundred years old."

" Now my father lived to be ninety-four years old," continued Mr. Edison. " My grandfather lived to be a hundred and two years

old. My great-grandfather lived to be a hundred and four years old. All three were disciples of Cornaro and lived according to his idea."

Mr. Edison is equally emphatic on the question of sleep. "As for sleep," he says, "that is another prevailing form of intemperance. People sleep too much. They drug themselves with sleep.

"If a man will only try to get along with less sleep he will be surprised to discover how little he really needs. And he will find his faculties very much improved by the effort.

"It is not so much the quantity as the quality of sleep that counts. The man who lies eight or nine hours in bed, tossing about from time to time, doesn't get anything like as much rest as the man who sleeps soundly for five hours."

On one occasion Mr. Edison, when engaged on the incandescent light problem, worked for five days and five nights without sleep. After that he slept for twenty hours. But it was a fine, deep, refreshing sleep, he tells us, and then when he got up he went at his work as strong and keen as ever.

"Another common mistake is to look upon hard work as injurious," said Mr. Edison. "You see Mr. This-and-That-that-the-Other-Fellow announcing that he has been working very hard and must go off to Europe for a rest. Bosh! He has been eating and drinking too much and hasn't worked half enough.

"The healthy man can't work too hard or too much. When his work tires him out he will go to sleep, and will get the right kind of sleep Not only I but my assistants work frequently for days and days with practically no sleep, or very little, and we all feel the better for it. It makes us brighter and makes us feel better."

Mr. Edison believes that hard work puts an edge on a man for more hard work. "If he is dull and can't sleep, let him work a little more," is the remedy suggested by the great inventor. "If that doesn't help matters, he says, let him work still more and still harder."

Hard work never shortens a man's life. Look at Gladstone and Bismarck. Look at Chevreul, the great French chemist, lecturing in Paris at the age of a hundred years. Look at the tremendous workers in all countries who have lived to be very real men. They lived temperately, did not over-eat or over-sleep, and, in Mr. Edison's firm belief,

they actually prolonged their lives by the wholesome stimulation of hard work.

But while, in his opinion, a man cannot work too hard, Mr. Edison says that it must be work that interests his mind and is suitable to his strength. He admits that a may can injure himself by working hard at anything that is distasteful to him. It's the worry, the fretting, that hurts, he says. A man can work too hard in any gambling kind of business. "Look at the men on the Stock Exchange! That life is simply awful. I don't mean that kind of thing. I mean legitimate work in which a man accomplishes something real, produces something of value."

Mr. Edison thinks it a good thing to work for money so long as a man needs money to support himself reasonably, but beyond that point money is a poor object to strive for if one expects to enjoy his work and benefit himself in the right way. It's the pleasure of actual achievement, the satisfaction of being genuinely useful, that makes hard work a stimulant and a blessing.—Selected.

When a Jap goes Shopping.

Supposing that, being in Japan, you went out shopping, to buy, say, a cage for one of the singing crickets whose tinkling chirrup the Japanese who keep these "songsters" declare to be sweeter than the warbling of birds! Or, presuming what you wanted was a "curio" mouse, carved by a native artist, "to the life," out of a small brown nut, or, let us suppose, a pound of the Japanese apples that have been described as "in appearance like a fine russet, in flavour quite flavour less, besides being hard and pithy." Well, pictures give a good idea of the kind of shops you would go to.

To our ideas the ordinary Japanese house is light and flimsy, and the Japanese shop is practically the same thing without a front, which, paradoxical as it may seem, is the shop-front. As we see in pictures, there are no glass windows to get broken, and in this case you have no need even to take the trouble to enter. Walking past, you are in the street; stand still outside the "emporium," and you are "in" the shop.

In the rarer larger shops, too, the goods are not on show. You announce what you want, and you take tea whilst the things are being fetched from the store-room. The shop-keeper and the attendants are, like everyone else in Japan, very polite; but for all that, people who want something for nothing do not find happy hunting grounds out there. A Hongkong British merchant not long since declared: "I do business with Japanese and Chinese, and find the former far keener at driving a bargain. The Chinaman is more resigned; he takes "what he had last time." But the Japanese is ever on the alert for improvement in every way." For which, "business being business" in all trade matters, we cannot but admire him.

At School in Morocco.

It may interest our Hindu readers, now that so much is being said about Morocco, to learn that the ordinary village schools in Morocco bear a very strong resemblance to schools of the same class in India. The primitive slates of the young Moroccans seem to be an advance upon the layer of smooth sand on which the young Hindu learns to write, but we give the preference to the Hindu method. The following is taken from our bright little contemporary, the *Penny Magazine*:—

Education in Morocco is a simple affair—no desks or seats. A few books, a few switches, sand boxes for blotting paper, wooden boards whitened with clay for slates, and the paraphernalia is complete.

The master squats on the ground tailor fashion, with his pupils ranged before him in like manner. He repeats the lesson in a sing-song, monotonous tone, swinging his body backwards and forwards, and is imitated by his pupils to the best of their ability. A smart switch on a brown body will soon recall a boy's wandering attention. In Morocco the girls receive practically no education.

When the young student has mastered his figures and letters he is taught the Koran or Mohammedan bible.

There are many holidays and new moons and feast days to be observed. The master is paid a small sum weekly, according to the means of the parent.

The Key to Knowledge.

Edmund Stone, the celebrated Scottish Mathematician, was the son of the Duke of Argyll's gardener. Before he was eighteen he had acquired much knowledge without a master. When he was asked by the Duke of Argyll how he had gained it he replied. "I first learned to read, and the masons being at work on your house I saw that the architect used a rule and compasses, and that he made calculations. Upon inquiring into the uses of these things I was informed there was a science named arithmetic. I purchased a book of arithmetic, and I learned it. I was told there was another science called geometry, and I learned that also. Finding that there were good books on these two sciences in Latin, I bought a dictionary and learned Latin. I also understood that there were good books of the same kind. in French, and I learned French. This, my lord, is what I have done and it seems to me that we may learn anything when we know the twenty-four letters of the alphabet." The Duke, pleased with this simple answer, drew Stone out of obscurity.

Reviews.

The Educationist.—The tenth issue of this educational weekly, published in Madras, is before us. It is a bright interesting, and extremely useful little paper. The Editor, Mr. T. S. Kodandarama Iyer, is to be congratulated on what we feel sure will or at least should prove a very successful venture. We can strongly recommend it to all educationists as a Journal to be relied on to give them trustworthy information on all matters likely to interest them. It has the advantage over all other Indian Educational Journals that we know of in appearing at short intervals. The quarterly subscription, including postage we presume, is only Rs. 1-2-0. The office of the *Educationist* is at 50, Thumbu Chetty Street, Madras.

The Punjab Educational Journal.—Edited by the Rev. A. H. Hildesley, M. A., F. P. U. We have received the twelfth (February) number of the new issue of this excellent Magazine. We have been through it carefully and have little hesitation in saying that it is exceedingly well edited and is full of matter of value to all who take an interest in educational affairs. Among the half dozen Magazines

published in India and devoted to the interests of higher education we consider that the *Punjab Educational Journal* takes the lead, and is likely to continue to do so in the hands of so competent an editor. The cover is an attractive one and gives an air of sumptuousness to the publication. The annual subscription for this Journal of 32 quarto double-columned pages is only Rs. 4-8-0. It may be ordered from the Manager of the Mufid-i-'am Press, Lahore.

Euclid made easy.—Containing notes, explanatory and elucidatory on the First two books of Euclid by **P. L. Sucsena.** Price 12 annas. Damodar Printing Works, Agra.

This little book will be found a very useful compilation for beginners. The notes on the propositions are good and will greatly assist learners, particularly private students who are unable to attend a school. The deductions are simple, and clearly worked out. The general get up of the book is not at all pleasing to the eye and there is very much room for improvement in this respect.

The Asylum Press Almanac for 1906.—We have been favoured with a copy of this valuable publication. Many changes and improvements have been made in this new edition. In the Introduction we are informed that for want of time a good many contemplated changes have had to be held over for the 1907 edition. We are very glad to be able to commend the present volume highly, as being calculated to supply most of the information for which one consults a publication of this kind. The Almanac is a handsome volume of over 1,500 pages, most of it very closely printed in brevier type. In full red cloth, its price is Rs. 6. Postage and packing, one rupee extra. Application should be made to the Superintendent, Lawrence Asylum Press, Madras.

TO EVERY READER OF
"THE STUDENT'S OWN MAGAZINE."

I hope you like this number. If you do, please recommend it to your friends It may contain something specially interesting to you or them. I shall be glad to hear from you at any time, and to know what you like or do not like.

The Editor.

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Essay Competition.

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Our Competitions.

No essays will be awarded a place in our competition in future, unless accompanied by the above coupon, which must be cut from Magazine and fastened to the first page of the essay. This rule must be followed each month to ensure that the Essayist has bought a copy of the Magazine and has not merely seen it in a school Library or Reading Room.

As complaints have been received that sufficient time is not allowed for the writing of a good essay, the Editor has decided to allow one full month in future. Thus the result of the competition in February will not be published until the end of March, and so on.

The popularity of the Student's Own Magazine is increasing month by month. We propose shortly to start a Question and Answer Competition, for which money prizes will be given, and also a Drawing Competition, for which pictures will be awarded The subject for the next Essay Competition is,—'The Advantages and Disadvantages of Newspapers.'

THE STUDENT'S FRIEND.

Approved by the Director of Public Instruction, Bombay, for all Educational Officers and Institutions.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT,
BOMBAY CASTLE, 25*th August* 1900.

Letter from the Director of Public Instruction, No. 2024, dated the 27th June 1900.

Requesting that he may be allowed to subscribe for a copy of the '*Student's Friend*' for the use of his office and that also a general sanction may be given to the effect that Educational Officers and institutions may subscribe to the Journal, if they wish to do so:—

(1) The *Student's Friend*, yearly subscription Re. 1 including postage, observing that the Journal is judiciously edited and contains useful educational information; forwarding a letter No. 90, dated the 14th June 1900, from the Headmaster, Poona High School, recommending the '*Student's Friend*' and making remarks.

Memorandum from the Educational Department of the Secretariat, No. 1043, dated 16th July 1900—Transferring the papers and making remarks.

Resolution.—The proposals made by the Director of Public Instruction are sanctioned on the understanding that the subscription will be paid from the contingent grant of the Officers or Schools concerned.

H. S. LAWRENCE, *Under Secretary to Government.*

No. 4076 of 1900-1901.

1. Copy forwarded for information to Messrs. T. S. Subramania & Co.
2. Subscription of Re. 1 is sent by Money Order.

(Signed) E. GILES, M.A., *Director of Public Instruction.*

Approved by the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, for all Government, Zilla and H. E. Schools.

FROM A. PEDLAR, ESQ., F. R. S.,
Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.
TO MESSRS. T. S. SUBRAMANIA & Co., *Madras.*

CALCUTTA, *the 28th August* 1900.

GENTLEMEN,

In reference to your letter of the 5th June 1900 regarding your Monthly Journal "*The Student's Friend,*"—I am directed to say that in the opinion of the Director of Public Instruction the Journal may profitably be subscribed for High Schools.

2. I am accordingly to suggest that you will send sample copies of the publication to the several Inspectors of Schools in Bengal (*see* below) with a view to their subscribing copies of it for such Government, High and Zilla Schools as they may think fit. In writing to them please quote the number and date of this letter.

INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

Burdwan	Circle Chinsurah.
Rajashahi	Jalpaiguri.
Patna	Bankipur.
Bhagalpur and Chota Nagpur	Purulia.
Eastern Circle	Dacca.
Orissa	Cuttack.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,
A. C. MULLICK,
Asst. to Director of Public Instruction.

FROM THE AGENCY EDUCATIONAL OFFICER, *Kathiawad.*

CAMP, RAJAKOT, 6-1-06.

No. 1473 OF 1905—1906.

TO MESSRS. T. S. SUBRAMANIA & CO.,
32, *Armenian Street, Madras.*

GENTLEMEN,

With reference to your letter dated 25th ultimo, I have the honour to state that the Headmasters of Secondary Schools under the agency have been asked by me to subscribe to your Journal from the 1st instant if possible.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant, (Signed) DHIRAJRAM VYAS,
Agency Educational Officer, Kathiawad

H. H. The Nizam's Educational Department.

No. 159. File No. 18 of 1906.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
H. H. The Nizam's Dominions, Hyderabad (Deccan).

To

MESSRS. T. S. SUBRAMANIA & Co.,
32, *Armenian Street, Madras.*

Hyderabad (Deccan) 22nd Jan. 1906.
Received........................ 1906.
Enclosures.

DEAR SIRS,

With reference to your letter dated 25th December 1905, I enclose herewith copy of a circular I have issued to the Inspectors of Schools under the department regarding your monthly Journal entitled "*The Student's Friend.*"

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) IMAD-UL-MULK,
Director of Public Instruction.

H. H. The Nizam's Educational Department.

File No. 18 of 1906.

FROM

NAWAB IMAD-UL-MULK BAHADUR, B.A.,
Director of Public Instruction,
His Highness the Nizam's Dominions, Hyderabad (Deccan).

To

THE INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS,
H. H. the Nizam's Dominions,
Hyderabad (Deccan). 16th Jan. 1906
Received.........................190 .
Enclosure.

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that a Monthly Journal of Education entitled "*The Student's Friend*" has been published by Messrs. T. S. Subramania & Co., 32, Armenian Street, Black Town, Madras. To judge from the specimen copies forwarded this Journal promises to be an excellent periodical well suited to the capacity of students of our High and even Middle Schools. The annual subscription being only one rupee g overnment, it is well within the means of the poorest. Our High and Middle Schools might do worse than to subscribe for one or more copies each, from their contingent allowance. I send three sample copies herewith for your perusal.

(True Copy). (Sd.) IMAD-UL-MULK, *Director of Public Instruction.*
C. S. NAIDU, *Head Clerk, Office of the Director of Public Instruction.*

From

G. W. KUCHLER Esq., M. A.,
Inspector of Schools,
Orissa Division.

To

MESSRS. T. S. SUBRAMANIA & Co.,
MADRAS.
Cuttack, the 13th February, 1906.

GENTLEMEN,

With reference to your letter dated the 31st December, 1905, I have the honor to state that the Journal, entitled "The Student's Friend" is well conducted and seems to be suitable for use in High Schools.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) G. W. KUCHLER.

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